



Honored fraternalist motivates with a constant smile and optimistic outlook

Contagious Volunteer Leadership

“LIVE TO BE 100.” THIS is Denny Richmond’s personal philosophy in life. Volunteer, fraternal branch vice president, alderman, parish council treasurer, church usher, and community pillar—Denny makes every moment count and plans to keep smiling until he’s (at least) 100!

His positive attitude and ability to mobilize others have earned Denny the prestigious President’s Award for being named National Mutual Benefit’s 2006 Fraternalist of the Year. Through example and accomplishment, he has provided outstanding volunteer service to his NMB branch, his community, and society in general.

Denny has the unique ability to motivate people to volunteer without making them feel uncomfortable. He can get almost anyone to do what he asks without hesitation. Why? Because Denny is not a complainer ... but rather ... an optimist, a friend, a humanitarian, and a problem solver. Most importantly, he has an unending enthusiasm and lust for life. People are attracted to positive people, and that is exactly how you would describe Denny Richmond.

As an alderman with the Schofield

City Council for more than 20 years, Denny was a vital player in the planning of the city’s 100th Anniversary Celebration. He continues to be a wonderful resource and liaison between NMB and Schofield when volunteer projects arise. He is always ready and willing to do what his city asks of him.

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Denny also serves on the board of directors for the Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (CWCVB). “After the death of Schofield Mayor Jim Krause, Denny Richmond was named to serve as the representative for the city of Schofield and the board of directors for the CWCVB. Since then, he has helped guide the organization and its mission to promote the area as a destination for leisure and business travel,” said Darien Schaefer, executive director of the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.

Mary Holm, a district representative with the NMB’s Wisconsin River Agency, has volunteered with Denny for many years on behalf of Wisconsin Valley Branch 3 in the Wausau/Schofield area. “Denny has been more than willing to go the extra mile to help with NMB branch projects over the years that impact the lives of others,” Holm comments.

Having previously served as a trustee for almost a decade on the Branch 3 board, Denny has been serving as vice president for the past three years. Along with his wife, Mary, he chairs or co-chairs many family-oriented events throughout the year, such as the annual Easter egg hunt and the summer picnic.

A dynamic member of his branch, Denny has volunteered above and beyond expectations at every event he’s been involved in. He has taken an active role as a mentor in Branch 3’s annual JOIN HANDS DAY (JHD) projects. This national day of service, sponsored by America’s fraternal benefit societies, joins adults and youth together to work on projects that improve their neighborhoods. Denny is not only a willing participant, he also comes up with some great ideas.

When Branch 3 volunteers partner

with the Hannah Center, a shelter for pregnant women in Marshfield, Wisconsin, Denny will even take projects home with him. Then he goes back to put in additional hours of service on his own. During a recent Community Outreach project for a local woman with cancer, Denny was there almost every day for a week, removing a dead tree in her yard and sanding and painting her garage, shutters, and doors.

As a neighbor, Denny volunteers for snow removal and lawn mowing tasks, and freely shares his carpentry skills when help is needed in his community.

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He is also very active in his church, where he has been a member for over 50 years. Currently, he is on the Grounds and Property Committee, and serves as treasurer on the Parish Council and as an usher. "Denny is always there to volunteer for anything they call him to do!" commented Jamie Feldmann, Branch 3 President.

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Denny and Mary Richmond (left), along with NMB District Representative Mary Holm (center), present a Community Outreach grant to representatives of the Hannah Center in Marshfield, Wisconsin. The money was used to help purchase new flooring for this facility, which helps women in distress due to a crisis pregnancy.



In June 2006, Branch 3 members stepped in to help a woman with cancer, volunteering to do much of the work that she wasn't able to get done around her house. Raking and putting in a new walkway were just two of the many jobs Denny helped with on this project.



President George Yanna presents the beautiful Waterford crystal President's Award to proud recipient Denny Richmond, NMB's 2006 Fraternalist of the Year.